

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE 12-12-77

25X1

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES, CIA
FAR EAST/PACIFIC BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE HIGHLIGHTS -- WEEK OF 2 MARCH - 8 MARCH 1948

GENERALFAO conferences

Regional United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization conferences on Rice, Fisheries and Nutrition now being held in Baguio in the Philippines, are proceeding in a spirit of harmony and agreement in marked contrast to the political discord which developed at the recent ECAFE meeting in Baguio. The conferences are being held on a working level for the purpose of implementing the field aspects of FAO's technical assistance program.

The Nutrition and Fisheries group met concurrently from February 23rd to the 29th. The fisheries experts agreed to the establishment of an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council for Asia, its purpose being to explore the possibilities of further utilization and preservation of fishing resources of the Far East. Each nation will contribute financially and technically to its research program.

The Regional Meeting of Technical Nutritionists formalized their conclusions on ways and means of raising the Asiatic nutrition level in a recommendation to the FAO council. The principle criticism of their work came from the Indian delegation which objected to the fact that the group failed to formulate a program of action for the nations of Asia.

The Rice Conference which is being held from March 1st to the 14th, opened on an extremely conciliatory note. All delegates are in agreement on the need for continued allocations of the world rice supply. Previous dissatisfaction with the system which was directed against the United States and the United Kingdom has been corrected. Further, the Siamese delegation which threatened to boycott the meeting has now arrived. This completes the representation of major rice producing countries at the Conference and will probably assure the formulation of an acceptable distribution program.

The conferees have also agreed to the establishment of a regional headquarters somewhere in Southeast Asia at a city to be determined at the conclusion of the present conferences. The 16 nations now represented at Baguio include the Philippines, China, United States, the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Burma, Netherlands, France, Ceylon, Italy, Paraguay, Liberia, Panama, Portugal and Siam. Japan and Korea are being represented by a SCAP delegation. Russia is not participating in the conferences.

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